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Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative's submission to the State Energy Conservation Office on its corporate practices, both current and future, related to energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable technologies.

## Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Report to the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO)  
on corporate practices of Energy Efficiency, Conservation,  
and Renewable Technologies.

Submitted May 1, 2013

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### Current practices

In September 2009, GVEC prepared and submitted a report to SECO regarding its corporate practices in energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable technology. Many of the programs and initiatives have remained fundamentally the same since the initial filing; however, GVEC has continued to refine its programs and investigate emerging technologies to best meet the need of its members.

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### Energy Efficient Rebate Program

Initially launched in March of 2009, the Energy Efficiency Rebate program has been refined several times to ensure that the rebate amounts are properly allocated to the areas that most benefit the Cooperative and the members making the investment. Rebates are available to active GVEC members in a multitude of areas, ranging from New Home Energy Efficiency rebates to solar water well rebates

More information on the Energy Efficient Rebate Program is available at the following link:

<http://www.maximrewards.com/gvec/default.aspx>

Examples of the promotion of these rebates are attached, marked as exhibit A.

Information on the total number of rebates paid to date and associated dollars is attached, marked as exhibit B.

### **New Home Rebates**

GVEC is offering the New Home rebate program designed to encourage builders and contractors to use energy efficient building materials and appliances. Homeowners will be eligible up to a \$1,500 rebate if the home meets certain criteria, such as: effective insulation, high-performance windows, efficient heating and cooling, and efficient appliances, lighting, and water heaters. Square footage of the home, and the square footage of window space, the homes must be of the all-electric type.

A complete copy of the Energy Star New Home Rebate Program is attached, marked as exhibit C.

### **Home Improvement Rebates**

GVEC is providing incentives for our existing home owners as well. Members can apply for rebates on the purchase of energy efficient appliances, insulation for walls and attics, efficient windows, water heaters, duct replacement, and heating and cooling systems.. Heating and cooling unit rebates are based on the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio, or SEER, of the unit. The higher the SEER rating of the unit, the higher the rebate. During 2012, GVEC made the decision to no longer offer a rebate for Energy Star appliances due to the increasing efficiencies of all new appliances.

- Duct Replacement: 20% of cost, up to \$500.00
- Energy Efficient Window: \$2.00/ sq. ft. of window openings
- Heat Pump, Cooling/ Heating system:
  - SEER > 16- \$550 per unit
  - SEER > 17 - \$650 per unit.
- Heat Pump Water Heater: \$300 per Heat pump water heater
- Insulation:
  - Attic Insulation - \$0.20/sq. ft. of installed insulation
  - Wall Insulation - \$0.20/sq. ft. of installed insulation
- Solar Screens and/ or film: \$0.50/sq. ft. of window

A complete copy of the Home Improvement Rebate Program is attached, marked as exhibit D.

### **Renewable Rebates**

In addition to the New Home and Home Improvement rebates currently being offered, a member can apply for a Renewable Rebate if they have an interest in a small wind or solar system for their home. Rebates are currently available for solar photovoltaic systems, solar water heaters, solar water wells, and small wind generators. In 2012, GVEC modified solar rebate due to the reduction in the cost of equipment and materials. Previously, the solar rebate was \$2.50/Watt DC, with a maximum of \$10,000.

- Solar Photovoltaic Systems: \$2.00/ Watt, not to exceed \$8,000
- Solar Water Heating Systems: \$1,000 per installed system
- Solar Water Pumps: \$750 per system
- Wind Generation: \$1.00/ Watt, not to exceed \$6,000

A complete copy of the Renewable Rebate Program is attached, marked as exhibit E.

## **Demand Response Program**

GVEC is currently investigating Demand Response (DR) technology and how it can be utilized to benefit our membership. By implementing a Demand Response Management System (DRMS) GVEC will have the ability to respond to reliability or economic events, as well as creating our own events during the peak times when the price of energy is higher. All participants of the DR program will be volunteers that have the ability to opt out when they please. The DR program will potential enable our customers to make wise energy efficient decision's by providing information on usage and potential effects of adjusting Thermostats and other appliances. Participants could have the opportunity to receive some type of incentive for participating in the DR program.

GVEC has had multiple in house meetings to discuss Demand response and how to best utilize the program to fulfill the needs of GVEC and its membership. Over the past 6 months GVEC has met with multiple industry leading companies to discuss equipment and software that each offer. In early March a formal RFP was sent to four qualifying companies with a submission deadline of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Currently GVEC is reviewing the four proposals to make a decision by the end of the second quarter of 2013, with a potential rollout of DR to our members by the end of 2013.

## **Residential Renewable Generating Installation Tariff**

Originally approved in February of 2008 and revised in January 2009, the Residential Renewable Generating Installation Tariff was designed to outline GVEC's policy regarding renewable installations. Under this tariff, a member can apply for interconnection of a renewable installation with a rated capacity of 20 kW's or less. This tariff also allows for the member to be paid GVEC's average wholesale power cost for any generation above the home's energy requirements.

A copy of the Residential Renewable Generating Installation Tariff is attached, marked as exhibit F.

## **Conservation Plan 7**

Conservation Plan 7 is a financing option available to GVEC members who are interested in investing in energy efficiency or renewable technology, but who may not have the financial resources to purchase them outright. The plan provides funds for up to \$7,000 for the purchase of insulation, new doors and windows, heating and cooling systems, and other energy efficient products. The term is for 7 years at an interest rate of 7%. A member who signs up for Plan 7 has the option to add the monthly payment to their monthly electric bill. Currently GVEC has 74 active participants participating in Conservation Plan 7 with a balance of \$254,371.79.

More information on Conservation Plan 7 is available at the following link:

<http://www.gvec.org/ycoopConservationPlan7.aspx>

## **Energy Saving Tips**

GVEC offers energy saving tips on its corporate website as well as periodic articles and advertisements in Texas Coop Power magazine. These tips range from temperature settings on heating and cooling systems, insulation, appliances, water heating, and home lighting. In addition, GVEC sponsors the POWERHOUSE program which is focused on educating middle school students on ways to save energy in their own homes.

Examples of these Energy Saving Tips are available at the following link:

<http://www.gvec.org/yeLifestyleChanges.aspx>

<http://www.gvec.org/ycSafetyEducationPresentations.aspx>

Examples of the promotion of these tips are attached, both marked as exhibit G.

## **Home Energy Checkup**

Provided as a free service to all GVEC members, Home Energy Checkups are an important part of ensuring a member's home is running in the most efficient manner possible. Once requested by a member, a Member Service Advisor will examine the energy efficiency of the entire home by checking for adequate insulation, and ventilation in attics and floor areas, inspecting the heating and cooling system, and inspecting efficiency of large appliances. GVEC's Member Service Advisors are trained and certified in the use of Infrared cameras. The infrared Camera is a valuable tool that is used to detect areas that are lacking insulation, and in locating leaks in doors and windows as well as holes or leaks in air conditioning duct work.

More information on Home Energy Checkups is available at the following link:

<http://www.gvec.org/yeFreeHomeEnergyAudit.aspx>

## **GVEC Home**

In existence in some fashion for over 40 years, GVEC Home offers energy efficient appliances to GVEC members, as well as the general public. Originally operated as an appliance repair service, GVEC Home, formerly GVEC Home Services was formed to provide energy efficient appliances to areas of the GVEC service territory where such products would not have been available otherwise. GVEC Home has locations in Seguin, LaVernia, and Gonzales. GVEC Home is also involved in the renewable energy field servicing and installing residential solar and wind systems.

More information on GVEC Home is available at the following link:

<http://gvechome.com/>

An example of the promotion of GVEC Home is attached, marked as exhibit H.

## **Wind Turbine Dealership**

GVEC Home is an authorized dealer of Southwest Windpower's Skystream unit which is a small residential model that has a capacity rating of 2.4 kW. From 2009 to December of 2011 GVEC home has installed 10 wind generators in various locations throughout the territory and has been monitoring production of these units with the use of a monitoring meter. GVEC believes renewable technology is a product that can play a part to help members meet their energy needs. Including units installed by Home, over 30 accounts with a total capacity 119.6 KW of wind generation on GVEC's system.

Currently we have halted all promotions and sales of the Skystream 3.7, due to issues with the Southwest wind power.

More information on Wind Generation is available at the following link:

<http://gvechome.com/renewables.html>

## **Solar Installation Partnership**

GVEC Home has partnered with Solar community to be our provider for Solar PV equipment and installations. Solar Community is Austin Based Solar Company that offers Design, Installation, and engineering services.

From the initiation of the partnership ( September, 2012) to current date GVEC Home has installed 15 systems, with an additional 10 systems in the process of being ordered or scheduled to be installed. With this partnership GVEC Home will be able to offer tier 1 equipment at an affordable price, to our members.

GVEC Home responsibilities:

- Marketing and Promoting the program
- Initial Contact
- Scheduling member visits
- Surveying the site
- Designing
- Creating contracts
- Taking payments
- Communication with the member
- Walk through to explain procedures, and answer questions
- Main contact when future issues arise

Solar Community's Responsibilities:

- Reviewing Designs
- Ordering equipment
- Stocking the equipment

- Delivering equipment
- Scheduling installations
- Labor for installation
- 10 year Workmanship warranty on the installs

More information on Solar Services is available at the following link:

<http://gvechome.com/renewables.html>

An example of the promotion of Solar Services is attached, marked as exhibit I.

### **GVEC Sponsored Renewable Displays**

GVEC continues to monitor and display Renewable products at many of their offices throughout their service territory. Currently, GVEC has installed wind Generation at four of their facilities, as well as other Renewable applications such as Solar Water heating systems, and Solar Photovoltaic (PV). These renewable products are installed to serve as educational tools for the GVEC membership, as well as the GVEC staff.

GVEC has also sponsored the installation of a small wind generator at the Texas Agricultural Education and Heritage Center in Seguin. "Solar for Schools" is another project GVEC has undertaken with the Marion Independent School District to educate students about the benefits of renewable technology.



Exhibit A

## Helping you save time and money.

GVEC offers an array of products and services that can save you time and money. Our goal is to make it easy and convenient for you to do business with us.

Find out more inside about these services:

**Conservation Plan 7** - financing for energy efficient home improvements

**Power Availability Monitoring** - verifies power is reaching your meter

**Security Light Installation** - added security for your family

**Home Energy Audit** - a professional evaluation of your home's energy efficiency

**Energy Efficient Rebates** - making energy efficient upgrades and renewable alternatives more affordable

**Online Tools** - free energy-saving tips and activities that can help you save energy and money

**Gonzales**  
825 E. Sarah DeWitt Dr.

**Cuero**  
909 E. Broadway

**La Vernia**  
13849 U.S. Hwy 87 W.

**Schertz**  
908 Curtiss Ave.

**Seguin**  
927 N. Highway 46



GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.  
800.223.GVEC (4832) | [www.gvec.org](http://www.gvec.org)

## Member Services



GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.



### Home Energy Checkup

Let a trained GVEC professional provide a complimentary evaluation of the energy efficiency of your home and give you some tips and recommendations to lower your energy usage and costs. Call GVEC at 1-800-223-4832 to make an appointment for a Home Energy Checkup.

### Energy Efficiency Rebate Program

GVEC can help with the costs associated with building an energy efficient home, remodeling or upgrading your current home, or installing renewable technologies. Visit [www.gvec.org](http://www.gvec.org) to learn about applications, contractors and program details – or call a Member Service Advisor for more information at 1-800-223-GVEC (4832) or email [info@gvec.org](mailto:info@gvec.org).

### Power Availability Monitoring

Do you have a lake house or a hunting cabin that you use only occasionally? Do you have a water well for cattle at a remote location that is not convenient for you to check regularly? If so, the Power Availability Monitoring (PAM) Program can help you.

- GVEC will check multiple times every day to verify that power is reaching your meter.
- If we find a problem, we'll automatically address it without the need for notification from you.
- The PAM Program can offer you peace of mind when you have to be away from your property at any time.

### Conservation Plan 7

GVEC can also help finance certain energy efficient upgrades for your home. The Conservation Plan 7 Program loans up to \$7,000, at a 7% interest rate, for up to a 7-year term. Credit approval is needed to qualify. Stop by any GVEC office and visit with a GVEC Member Services Advisor today, or call 1-800-223-4832 and get all the details about GVEC's Conservation Plan 7.

### Security Lights

Keeping your family secure around your home is a priority. From rural ranches to urban neighborhoods, wherever you are – lighting is an important factor in safety. Let GVEC install a security light for you. Call a Customer Service Representative at 1-800-223-4832 today for more information on rates.

### Online Tools

Find free energy-saving features for your home, educational activities for the kids, and community links online at [www.gvec.org](http://www.gvec.org).

- Click on the Home Energy Suite to learn ways to conserve energy in your home.
- Use the Kids Korner to explore fun energy-related games, experiments, and more.
- Access member recipes and an online trading post.
- Keep up to date with GVEC and industry news that affects you and your family.



GVEC Home is your one-stop shopping location for major brand electric home appliances from the budget models to the latest energy efficient styles. We're also an authorized dealer for Trane and Bryant heating and cooling units. Our licensed HVAC technicians install, repair, and service central electric heating and cooling units and offer additional assistance to help you save energy in your home.

And, if you'd like to explore renewable alternatives, we have wind and solar solutions, too.

To learn more, visit [www.gvec.org](http://www.gvec.org), stop in at any one of our three locations in Gonzales, La Vernia and Seguin, or call 1-800-223-GVEC (4832).



GVEC.net is an Internet Service Provider serving parts of the GVEC service territory and surrounding areas. GVEC.net commits to providing the highest quality of Internet service regardless of where you live.

GVEC.net offers:

- Dial-Up
- Residential High Speed Wireless
- Commercial High Speed Wireless
- Web Site Hosting

For more details, visit us at [www.gvec.net](http://www.gvec.net), at any GVEC location, or call us at 1-800-699-GVEC (4832).

## Will Wind Power Work For You?

GVEC is vested in exploring the possibilities of renewable energy options for the South Texas area. As a result, GVEC has installed residential wind turbines at the following locations to research and study the impact of wind power:

- Seguin Office Complex
- Gonzales Office
- Schertz Office
- Texas Agricultural Education & Heritage Center (Big Red Barn in Seguin)

Members and the public can review the data GVEC is collecting and experience firsthand how the technology works. See GVEC staff for up-to-date information to determine the potential benefits wind power can bring you.

FOLLOW US ON



### **Gonzales**

825 E. Sarah DeWitt Dr.

### **Cuero**

909 E. Broadway

### **La Vernia**

13849 U.S. Hwy 87 W.

### **Schertz**

908 Curtiss Ave.

### **Seguin**

927 N. Highway 46



**GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.**  
**800.223.GVEC (4832) | [www.gvec.org](http://www.gvec.org)**

# Wind Power

Turning Wind into Electricity



**GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.**



**Interesting Facts About Wind Generation:**

- The wind itself is a clean, sustainable, cost-efficient “fuel” source.
- Texas has become the nation’s leader in wind production.
- New technologies, tax incentives (where applicable) and GVEC rebate programs can significantly decrease the initial cost of installation.



Residential wind turbine at the Seguin Office Complex.

**Q:** What wind turbine model has been used in your wind study?

**A:** *Skystream 3.7® with a rated capacity of 2.4 kW*

**Q:** How tall is the pole?

**A:** *GVEC's study includes 33- and 45-foot poles. Different pole heights produce different results. Ideally, the lowest part of the rotor will be at least 20 feet higher than any obstacles surrounding the pole within 250 feet. At lower than suggested pole heights, the wind is often turbulent and the velocity is much slower due to ground drag, resulting in lower production.*

**Q:** Will this type of application fulfill the energy needs of my residential or commercial property?

**A:** *Although wind is clean and renewable, it is unpredictable, especially in our South Texas area. Therefore, wind is not a consistent, reliable power supply. A constant backup source of “firm” power is necessary.*

**Q:** When the electricity provided by GVEC is interrupted, will the wind turbine be able to provide electricity?

**A:** *No. For safety purposes, the turbines are equipped with a shut-off mechanism that stops the turbine from producing power during an outage. This is necessary to ensure that power isn't flowing onto lines when a lineman is working to restore power to GVEC, your home or business.*

**Q:** What is GVEC's Residential Renewable Generating Tariff?

**A:** *The tariff allows members to consume all of the power produced on location and then sell any excess power back to GVEC at the average wholesale power rate. This tariff provides members the benefit of offsetting their own usage at retail rates and, in turn, reap the benefits of being paid for any excess power that may have been produced.*

**Financial Support for Renewable Energy:**

GVEC supports our members' efforts toward leading a more energy conscious lifestyle. Take advantage of:

**GVEC Rebate:**

- \$1.00/Watt—up to \$6,000 (6kW)

**Government Support:**

Federal tax credits and, where applicable, government grants may also be available for energy efficient home improvements under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Get more details at [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org).

For program details or to apply for your renewable rebate, visit **GVEC's Rebate Center** on [www.gvec.org](http://www.gvec.org).

If you have additional questions, email [rebates@gvec.org](mailto:rebates@gvec.org) or call 1.800.223.GVEC (4832).



A wind turbine is a significant investment. Make your purchase from a partner you can trust for reliable information, installation, and service.

**1.800.223.GVEC (4832)**

GVEC Home Services, Inc. is a subsidiary of  
GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.

## Is Solar Power Right For You?

There are many ways to utilize renewable technologies in and around your home and, in many cases, you can get help with the upfront costs of installing these features at your home through our energy efficiency rebate program as well as government tax credits, when applicable.

Choosing from solar-powered water well pumps and water heaters to the bigger investment of solar photovoltaic systems, GVEC can recommend choices to help you live a greener lifestyle.

Visit with a GVEC Member Services Advisor to learn more about renewable options and see if they are right for you.

FOLLOW US ON



### **Gonzales**

825 E. Sarah DeWitt Dr.

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**800.223.GVEC (4832) | [www.gvec.org](http://www.gvec.org)**

# Solar Power

Utilizing the Power of the Sun



**GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.**





### Making Electricity From Sunlight

Solar panels capture energy from the sun and turn it into electricity. Another word commonly used for “solar” is photovoltaic.

### How Does It Work?

Photovoltaic (PV) cells in the panel are made of semiconductors—crystalline silicon or other thin-film materials—that can convert sunlight directly into electricity, which can be used for the home or sent to a power grid.

### Why Is It Important?

Like wind, the sun’s energy is a renewable resource and a clean source of power. Texas has a lot of sun—many areas get 300+ days of sunshine each year. This makes solar energy a viable renewable option for our area, which can be used in many ways from powering solar-powered water well pumps to homes.

### Interesting Facts About Solar Power

- Photovoltaic systems produce clean, reliable electricity without consuming any fossil fuels.
- The energy output of a 1kW solar energy unit is roughly equivalent to the burning of 170 pounds of coal and 300 pounds of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere.
- Solar energy requires little maintenance and comes with financial incentives including GVEC rebates. Tax deductions and tax credits may also be applicable.

Sources: Energy.gov and Solarbuzz.com

### Solar Photovoltaic Systems

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems use solar panels to convert energy from the sun into electricity. While most systems won’t power your entire home, they can supplement your energy usage and reduce your utility bill. Plus, what your home doesn’t use, you can sell back to GVEC. GVEC’s renewable rebates and government tax credits, which may be available, can help reduce the cost of installation when you use a GVEC Listed Renewable Rebate Contractor. Ask to speak to a Member Services Advisor today.

### Solar Water Heaters

For homes that use a large amount of hot water and are exposed to a lot of sun, a solar water heater may be economical. At its simplest form, cold water is piped to a solar collector where it is warmed by the sun. Then it is sent to the water heater tank. If the water isn’t warm enough, then the conventional water heater turns on. Therefore, the temperature or availability of hot water is not affected.

### Solar Water Well Pumps

A solar water well pump is an economic alternative to powering a remote water well where utility power is not accessible. The solar panels should be placed where they will get the most direct sunlight and away from trees or other brush.

### Financial Support For Renewable Energy:

GVEC supports our members’ efforts toward leading a more energy conscious lifestyle. Take advantage of:

#### Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems\*

- Rebates of \$2.00/Watt—up to maximum \$8,000 (4kW)

#### Solar Water Heaters

- Rebates of \$1,000/Water Heater

#### Solar Water Well Pumps

- Rebates of \$750/Unit

#### Government Support:

Federal tax credits and, where applicable, government grants may also be available for energy efficient home improvements under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Get more details at [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org).

*For program details or to apply for your renewable rebate, visit **GVEC’s Rebate Center** on [www.gvec.org](http://www.gvec.org). If you have additional questions, email [rebates@gvec.org](mailto:rebates@gvec.org) or call 1.800.223.GVEC (4832).*



Solar alternatives can be significant investments. Make your purchase from a partner you can trust for reliable information, installation, and service.

**1.800.223.GVEC (4832)**

GVEC Home Services, Inc. is a subsidiary of  
**GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.**

Exhibit B



# 2012 Rebate Update

(January 1, 2012 -- December 31, 2012)

HOME IMPROVEMENT	Current Program	Rebate Totals	Rebate Paid
16 SEER HEAT PUMP	\$550/UNIT	87	\$47,850.00
17+ SEER HEAT PUMP	\$650/UNIT	57	\$37,050.00
INSULATION	\$0.20/SQ. FT.	64	\$21,297.20
EE WINDOWS	\$2.00/SQ. FT.	46	\$17,079.08
SOLAR SCREEN/FILM	\$0.50/SQ. FT.	146	\$16,453.56
DUCT SYSTEM REPLACEMENT	20% UP TO \$500	14	\$6,436.00
ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES	\$50.00	884	\$68,000.00
HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER	\$300/UNIT	78	\$23,400.00
<b>Home Improvement Total:</b>		<b>1376</b>	<b>\$237,565.84</b>

RENEWABLES	Current Program	Rebate Totals	Rebate Paid
SOLAR PV	\$2.50/WATT	265	\$2,596,263.00
SOLAR WATER HEATER	\$1,000/UNIT	1	\$1,000.00
SOLAR WATER WELL PUMP	\$750/UNIT	5	\$3,750.00
WIND GENERATOR	\$1.00/WATT	0	\$0.00
<b>Renewables Total:</b>		<b>271</b>	<b>\$2,601,013.00</b>

ENERGY STAR NEW HOME	Current Program	Rebate Totals	Rebate Paid
ENERGY STAR NEW HOME	Score 75 - 71, Rebate \$1,000	43	\$43,000.00
ENERGY STAR NEW HOME	Score 70 - 66, Rebate \$1,250	47	\$58,750.00
ENERGY STAR NEW HOME	Score ≤65, Rebate \$1,500	33	\$49,500.00
<b>Estar New Home Total:</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>\$151,250.00</b>

<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>		<b>1770</b>	<b>\$2,989,828.84</b>
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Exhibit C

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY NEW HOME PROGRAM

### GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be a GVEC member
- Home receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC
- Please allow 6 weeks after final approval to receive rebate.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Home shall qualify for GVEC's All Electric Rate
- Properly sized Energy Efficient Heat Pump system is required, AHRI rated 16 SEER Minimum from current Edition Manual J
- Electric water heater with a minimum Energy Factor (EF) rating of  $\geq .94$  is required. (Note: Heat pump water heaters or solar water heaters are recommended, but not required.)
- Open-cell spray foam roof deck or Structurally Insulated Panels (SIP) required with an R Value  $\geq 30$
- All HVAC equipment and ducts shall be located in conditioned space
- Energy efficient windows shall have a Solar Heat Gain Co-efficient of  $\leq .27$  and a U-Factor of  $\leq .39$
- A sole plate gasket shall be installed on exterior walls.
- Walls shall be insulated with a fiberglass "BIB" type system, blown cellulose, or spray foam to a total wall value  $\geq R-14$ .
- All venting shall vent to the outside of the building structure i.e., bathroom exhaust fan, laundry exhaust fans, vent hood over range or cook top.
- All builder-installed appliances shall be ENERGY STAR qualified. (Example: dish washer, refrigerator, freezer)
- **GVEC shall be contacted prior to the beginning of construction for participation.**
- The New Home Agreement Form shall be completed and signed prior to the beginning of construction.
- **A pre-sheetrock and final inspection shall be completed by GVEC to participate.**

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- A set of scaled home and elevation plans must be provided.
- Mechanical and building specifications must be provided.

### REBATE AMOUNT

- \$1500

Exhibit D

## DUCT REPLACEMENT REBATE

### GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- Duct material shall be insulated with R-8.
- ONLY DUCTS IN UNCONDITIONED SPACE WILL QUALIFY (Any discrepancies of unconditioned or conditioned area to be determined by GVEC).
- Invoice shall include: R-value of material used.
- Dampers shall be installed in order to control room-by-room airflow.
- Adjustable louvered ceiling grilles shall not be a substitution for dampers.
- Contractor must hold a current certification showing proof of training in Blower Door, Duct Blaster or National Comfort Institute (NCI) HVAC air diagnostics and balancing testing. Duct air flow leakage testing results must show final duct leakage in CFM and nominal system tonnage.
- Duct system shall be sealed and tested to have  $\leq 7$  % CFM of air leakage based on the nominal system's tonnage of 400 CFM per ton.
- Duct system shall be sealed and designed according to manufacturer's recommended installation practices and procedures, current state and local code requirements, and ACCA Manual D.
- Does not apply to new construction.
- All material shall be new. Air sealants such as mastics and/or foil tape shall be UL 181 approved and designed for air distribution systems.

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Duct Design drawing showing damper location, duct size and CFM requirements per room.
- Additional information to include unit's total CFM and CFM of air leakage.
- Signed Invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted.

### REBATE AMOUNT

20% of cost, up to \$500.00

## ENERGY EFFICIENT WINDOW REBATE

### GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- WINDOW RATING SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM U-FACTOR OF  $< .40$ .
- Windows shall have a solar heat gain co-efficient (SHGC)  $< .27$ .
- Windows in Garages and other non-conditioned areas do not qualify.
- Invoice shall include: window manufacturer, model, size, U-Factor and solar heat gain co-efficient (SHGC).
- Window shall be NFRC (National Fenestration Rating Council) Rated
- Does not apply to new construction.
- All material shall be new.
- Manufacturer's installation practices and procedures shall be followed.
- State and local codes shall be followed.

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Signed invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted

### REBATE AMOUNT

Energy Efficient Windows

\$2.00/sq. ft. of window opening

## HEAT PUMP, COOLING/HEATING SYSTEM REBATE

### GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Completed Insulation Acknowledgement Form.
- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- UNIT SHALL BE AN ALL ELECTRIC HEAT PUMP SYSTEM
- Auxiliary heating shall be controlled through an outdoor temperature sensor and set at the system's balance point, preventing unnecessary operation of auxiliary heating.
- Outdoor thermostat setting set above 35° will require a balance point diagram.
- Air distribution system (supply, return, plenum, and cabinet closet) shall be sealed or repaired according to manufacturer's recommended installation practices and current code requirements.
- System shall be a NEW matching system certified by AHRI. Both condensing unit and air handler/evaporator coil shall be replaced.
- Applicable to new or existing homes.
- Manual J 8th Edition load calculation to be completed showing the sensible load and total BTU gain at Design conditions of: 75° Indoor, 63° Wet Bulb, 97° Outdoor. Equipment sensible not to exceed 15% of the calculated sensible load.
- Manufacturer's installation practices and procedures should be followed
- State and local codes should be followed.

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Manual J 8th Edition Load Calculation showing sensible and total BTU gain at Design conditions of: 75° Indoor, 63° Wet Bulb, 97° Outdoor
- Balance Point Diagram (if Required)
- Signed Invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted.
- AHRI Certificate
- Signed Insulation Acknowledgement Form.

### REBATE AMOUNT

SEER ≥ 16 - \$550 per unit

SEER ≥ 17 - \$650 per unit

## HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER REBATE

### GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Applicable to new or existing homes.
- Heat pump water heater units are to be installed according to manufacturer's guidelines and recommendations.
- All Heat pump water heaters shall be new and UL listed.
- Invoice shall include: manufacturer, model number, serial number and energy factor.
- All exposed pipes shall be insulated.
- State and local codes shall be followed.

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Receipt/Invoice showing unit purchased

### REBATE AMOUNT

\$300 per Heat pump water heater



## INSULATION REBATE

### GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### Attic Insulation Rebate:

- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- Final insulation level minimum shall be R-38 to qualify.
- (PRIOR TO UPGRADE) INSULATION SHALL BE R-19 OR LESS.
- Garages and other non-conditioned areas DO NOT qualify.
- Invoice shall include: insulation type, square footage of conditioned area, R-Value prior to upgrade and installed R-Value.
- Does not apply to new construction.
- All material shall be new.
- Manufacturer's installation practices and procedures shall be followed.
- State and local codes shall be followed.
- GVEC recommends that the attic have a minimum of 1 sq. ft. of new free area of inlet ventilation and outlet ventilation for every 300 sq. ft. of attic area.

#### Wall Insulation Rebate:

- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- Rebate is based on the sq. ft. of installed insulation. (Calculated by gross wall area less window and door area, etc.)
- FINAL INSULATION SHALL BE AT LEAST R-13.
- WALL CAVITY TO BE VOID OF ANY INSULATION PRIOR TO UPGRADE IN ORDER TO QUALIFY.
- Garages and other non-conditioned areas do not qualify.
- Shall be installed between conditioned and unconditioned areas to qualify.
- Invoice shall include: insulation type, square footage of conditioned area, R-Value prior to upgrade and installed R-Value.
- Does not apply to new construction.
- All material shall be new.
- Manufacturer's installation practices and procedures shall be followed.
- State and local codes shall be followed.

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Signed invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted

### REBATE AMOUNT

- Attic Insulation - \$0.20/sq. ft. of installed insulation
- Wall Insulation - \$0.20/sq. ft. of installed insulation

## WINDOW SOLAR SCREENS AND/OR FILM REBATE

### GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- Screens or Films on windows in Garages and other non-conditioned areas do not qualify.
- Screens or Films shall cover entire glass surface area for each fenestration.
- Minimum of 70% reduction of solar heat gain for solar screens and  $\leq 40$  solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC) for films.
- Invoice shall include: manufacturer's data on reflectivity or heat gain co-efficient, product identifiers, and performance rating specifications.
- Does not apply to new construction.
- All material shall be new.
- Manufacturer's installation practices and procedures shall be followed.
- State and local codes shall be followed.

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Signed invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted

### REBATE AMOUNT

\$0.50/sq. ft. of window

## Exhibit E

## **SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ELECTRICAL SYSTEM REBATE**

### **GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS**

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Must meet all requirements of Renewable Energy Application and Contract (Interconnection Agreement), Systems that exceed 20 KW do not qualify.
- Maximum rebate not to exceed \$8,000.00
- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor
- All work shall be performed in accordance with all applicable manufacturer's codes and standards.
- All PV systems shall carry a 1 year warranty from the Installer, and manufacturer's warranty of 20 years on solar panels and 5 years on the inverter.
- All equipment shall be new and listed by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to qualify for the rebate.
- Site location must have minimal shading by trees, structures, etc. GVEC reserves the right to deny rebate based on excessive shading of the solar system. If shading at site location is in question, contact GVEC prior to installation of the system.
- Invoice shall include: PV panel manufacturer, inverter manufacturer and model number.
- Manufacturer's installation procedures and codes shall be followed.
- Should the system be removed, the member will be billed a pro-rated amount of the original rebate based on 80% after one year, 60% after two years, 40% after three years and 20% after four years. After five years there will be no penalty.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

- Basic wiring diagram
- Renewable Energy Application and Contract (Interconnection Agreement).
- Signed invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted

### **REBATE AMOUNT**

\$2.00/Watt

## **SOLAR WATER HEATER REBATE**

### **GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS**

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- All material shall be new and certified by SRCC (Solar Rating Certification Corporation).
- Solar water heaters shall preheat water for an electric water heater that is permanently installed and is the main source of water heating.
- Invoice shall include: manufacturer, model number and Solar Rating Certification Corporation Number.
- Solar water heater shall have a minimum 5 year warranty on all major components.
- Solar water heater shall also be installed with frost protection and scale elimination.
- Manufacturer's installation procedures and codes shall be followed.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

- Signed invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted

### **REBATE AMOUNT**

\$1,000 per Solar Water heater

## **SOLAR WATER WELL REBATE**

### **GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS**

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor.
- PV panels shall have a minimum 20 year warranty.
- All material shall be new.
- Invoice shall include: manufacturer, model number and pv panel warranty.
- Shall be installed by a licensed contractor.
- Manufacturer's installation procedures and codes shall be followed.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

- Signed invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted

### **REBATE AMOUNT**

\$750/Unit

## **WIND GENERATOR REBATE**

### **GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS**

- Improvements may require a GVEC listed contractor in order to participate in rebate program. See additional program requirements for details.
- GVEC does not assume liability for work completed by a GVEC listed contractor.
- Project should be completed after January 1, 2011 with application and all supporting documents submitted before April 30, 2012 to be eligible for Rebates.
- Must be a GVEC member.
- Items receiving a rebate shall be served by GVEC.
- Please allow 6 weeks after receipt of all documents to receive rebate credit.
- Rebates less than \$1,501 will be applied as a credit to your GVEC energy bill. Rebates greater than \$1,500 will be mailed to the mailing address as submitted on the online application.
- GVEC reserves the right to verify all projects in order to meet minimum program guidelines and requirements.
- Additional supporting documents may be required, see additional program requirements for details.
- Government funded improvements do not qualify for GVEC Rebates.
- GVEC reserves the right to make changes to the program without notice.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Must meet all requirements of Renewable Energy Application and Contract (Interconnection Agreement), Systems that exceed 20 KW do not qualify.
- Maximum rebate not to exceed \$6,000.00
- Improvement shall require a GVEC listed contractor
- Wind generator shall have UL certificate of compliance.
- Wind generator shall have a minimum 5 year manufacturer's warranty.
- Invoice shall include: manufacturer and model number.
- Manufacturer's installation procedures and codes shall be followed.
- Should system be removed, the member will be billed a pro-rated amount of the original rebate based on 80% after one year, 60% after two years, 40% after three years and 20% after four years. After five years there will be no penalty.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

- Signed Invoice showing work completed. No estimates accepted.
- Renewable Energy Application and Contract (Interconnection Agreement).
- UL Certificate of Compliance

### **REBATE AMOUNT**

\$1.00/Watt

Exhibit F



## ELECTRIC TARIFF



<b>SECTION IV</b> <b>Service Rules, Regulation and Service</b> <b>Agreement Forms</b>	<b>APPROVAL</b> <b>DATE</b> <b>02-19-08</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE</b> <b>DATE</b> <b>02-19-08</b>	<b>PAGE</b> <b>NO.</b> <b>79</b>
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### **RESIDENTIAL RENEWABLE GENERATING INSTALLATION**

**23.1 Residential Renewable Generating Installation** - Items 23.1 and 23.2 of this tariff apply to the interconnection and parallel operation of a single renewable generating installation that has a rated design capacity of 20kw or less. In order to qualify for this program, the Renewable Generating Installation must utilize renewable technologies (defined as wind, solar or hydro) to produce energy. The Cooperative reserves the right to determine if a Renewable Generating Installation qualifies for this program and may take in to account future renewable technologies.

**23.2 Purchases from Producer –**

1. Rate – The Utility will pay Producer for all power purchased at the current renewable energy rate, which is calculated by taking an average of the Utility's wholesale power costs

**23.3 Metering** - In addition to any existing meters, a separate meter will be required to measure output of the renewable generating installation. This meter, as well as all associated wiring and switchgear up to point of interconnection with Utility, will be installed at Member's expense.

## Exhibit G



Comments from your General Manager:

## Be Proactive in Lowering Your Electric Bill

*Darren Schauer*

**A**pril is one of the best times of year to be proactive in implementing ways to save on your monthly electric bill, especially as the hot summer months are approaching. This month's publication has money and energy saving offers from GVEC Home®. Also, make sure you are taking advantage of the various low- to no-cost ways GVEC offers to help lower your bill and conserve energy.

### Focus on Your AC/Heating Unit

First and foremost, focus your attention on your central AC/Heating (HVAC) unit — the largest cost of energy in your home each month. For existing units, it's time to get seasonal maintenance to ensure peak efficiency before the hot South Texas temperatures are upon us. If your HVAC unit is over 10 years old and not running at optimum efficiency, it's costing you more money than necessary to operate. Now is a good time to consider a newer, more energy efficient model. Make sure you get a professional consultation to help you size a new unit to fit your home and explore available financing options. Our experts at GVEC Home can help you with any questions you may have and new maintenance and service plan incentives to help you get started.

### Check Out Your Water Heater

GVEC can also help you with the second largest energy user in your home — your water heater. New energy efficient heat-pump models use up to 62% less energy than traditional electrical water heaters by pulling heat from surrounding air. That adds up to real bottom line savings of \$320 annually for a high efficiency unit with a similar footprint to a 50-gallon standard water heater.

In April you can get a General Electric heat-pump unit at just \$1,099, a \$300 savings from the regular retail price. In addition, GVEC members can take advantage of an instant \$300 GVEC energy efficiency rebate, making the purchase

price before sales tax just \$799. Coupled with your monthly energy savings and any applicable federal rebates that may be available, this is an opportunity for significant savings.

### Free Information & Tools

In addition to these specials, GVEC will be hosting two free Home Energy Efficiency Workshops on April 17 and 19 in Seguin and Gonzales, respectively. The public is invited to enjoy an interactive presentation and talk with your GVEC energy experts on exactly what makes your meter spin and ways you can build more efficiency into your home to lower your energy bills. See our invitation on page 25 for more details. We hope to see you there. If you can't make it, take advantage of the wealth of information at your fingertips at [gvec.org](http://gvec.org) or phone a Member Service Advisor any time at 800.223.GVEC (4832). Financing and rebate programs are available to assist you with some of the upfront costs of efficient upgrades to your home, and we're always happy to make recommendations on how you can make your home more energy efficient.

Living a more energy conscious lifestyle means saving money and energy for our future. GVEC is here to help you be proactive with the best tools and information for reaching your personal energy efficiency goals.

I'm always interested in your comments and questions. Contact me any time via phone at 800.223.4832, mail at P.O. Box 118, Gonzales, TX 78629, or email at [dschauer@gvec.org](mailto:dschauer@gvec.org).

Respectfully,

**gvec**  
Your kind of power.®

District 1  
Robert J. Werner

District 2  
Lewis Borgfeld,  
*Board President*

District 3  
Henry "Bubba" Schmidt, Jr.

District 4  
Shawn Martinez

District 5  
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District 6  
Emmett Engelke

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Melvin E. Strey,  
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District 8  
Mark Roberts

District 9  
Dr. Tom DeKunder

District 10  
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*Board Secretary/Treasurer*

District 11  
David Warzecha

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

800.223.GVEC (4832) | [info@gvec.org](mailto:info@gvec.org) | [gvec.org](http://gvec.org) | [f](#) [t](#)

# Celebrate Earth Day with GVEC

**See you at Central Park in Downtown Seguin!**

**9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, April 28**

Seguin celebrates Earth Day in a big way. This year there'll be garden and eco tours, live entertainment and booths — including GVEC!

We hope you'll stop by and learn more about the free services we offer members and how we can help you live a more efficient lifestyle through energy conservation. We're also setting up a full-sized residential wind turbine to help community members learn more about renewables.

## Appliance Recycling

Do you have an old appliance that needs recycling? Bring it to any GVEC Home store and receive a \$25 coupon towards the purchase of any new appliance.

## Recycle Your CFLs, Too

Remember, you can bring your used CFLs to any GVEC office for recycling. You can bring them to our Earth Day booth, too! Did you know we send them to a recycling plant where the glass and aluminum end-caps are cleaned for reuse and less waste?

Last year, members brought in 220 pounds of CFLs for recycling. That's a 100 percent increase from the year before.

## PUMP UP THE SAVINGS HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER SALE

GE GeoSpring™ Hybrid Electric  
Heat Pump Water Heater

**Only  
\$799**  
after \$300 Discount and  
\$300 GVEC Rebate

Reg. \$1,399



Restrictions Apply. You must be a GVEC member to qualify for the GVEC Rebate. May not be combined with any other GVEC Home® offer. Sale price expires April 30, 2012.

**PROMO CODE: GRHPWH412**

## Save Time and Paper with Online Billing

Need more convenience in your life? Sign up for Automatic Payment and E-Bill. Both services are free and make it easy to receive — and pay — your bill online at [www.gvec.org](http://www.gvec.org) each month.

**Automatic Payment** — no more late payments! Let GVEC automatically debit your payment from your bank account (checking, savings or debit card) or charge a designated credit card.

**E-Bill** — It's definitely the "green" way to do business because you'll receive your bill online each month.

Sign up via the Self-Service Portal on [www.gvec.org](http://www.gvec.org). If you have questions, call us at 800.223.GVEC (4832).

## CONGRATS YOUTH TOUR WINNERS!

Cole Hybner  
St. Paul HS

Kristen Henke  
Sacred Heart HS

Morgan Simper  
Gonzales HS

Jake Robinson  
Nixon-Smiley HS

Four high school students know what they'll be doing this June: joining other students from around the nation for the 2012 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in Washington, D.C.! In addition to touring our nation's capital, they'll learn about leadership, government and the role cooperatives play in local communities. This year's winners earned their spots by showing us what energy efficiency improvements they'd make at home or school.



Don't get your electric bill caught in a spin cycle! When doing laundry, use cold water. If your dryer has a moisture sensor, use it to prevent over-drying clothes—50 minutes often works best for a full load. And remember to check your lint filter each time before you run a load to help your dryer run more efficiently (and save energy).

# WHAT MAKES YOUR METER SPIN?

**TIPS & TOOLS TO  
LOWER YOUR  
ENERGY BILL!**

**Win  
Prizes!**

**How-To  
Demos**

**Chance to win a  
\$500 GVEC Home®  
Gift Certificate!**

**Attend a Free  
HOME  
ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY  
WORKSHOP**



Find out what uses the most energy in your home and how you can reduce it!

Learn about low- and no-cost ways to save energy in your home!

Talk one-on-one with our Energy Experts!

Win great prizes, get discounts, enjoy free refreshments, and more!

Learn how to fix drafty doors and windows with hands-on demonstrations!

Call **800.223.GVEC**

for more details.

*No Reservations Required.*



**Tuesday, April 17**  
**Doors Open at 6:00 PM**  
*Presentation Starts at 6:30 PM*  
Seguin Agricultural Education  
& Heritage Center

**Thursday, April 19**  
**Doors Open at 6:00 PM**  
*Presentation Starts at 6:30 PM*  
First Lutheran Church of  
Gonzales Fellowship Hall





## Ask an Energy Expert

Clint Petras, Member Service Advisor

### Does Summer Break Mean Higher Energy Bills?

**Q:** With my kids spending more time at home during summer vacation, I worry that my electric bill will be higher than usual. How can my family conserve energy, but still be comfortable and have fun?

**A:** There are several ways to save energy—even with the entire family at home. You might also take this opportunity to make some energy-efficiency lifestyle changes for year-round savings!

- For starters, have a family-friendly competition where everyone makes a list of things they can do to save energy—then hold them to it with a reward system. You can help each other establish good habits like turning off electronic games and lights when done, taking shorter (5-minute) showers since water heating is the second largest energy consumer in your home, and watching less TV. For more ideas, visit [gvec.org](http://gvec.org) and check out our section on Lifestyle Changes found under the Efficiency tab.

- Since about 45 percent of the typical electric bill is due to heating and cooling costs, your thermostat setting can make a big difference. For every degree you raise your thermostat in the summer (or lower it in the winter), you can cut your cooling/heating costs by up to 4 percent.
- Use ceiling fans—they can make it seem two to three degrees cooler, allowing you to keep your AC thermostat higher. Make sure fans push air down to generate a breeze (typically rotating counter-clockwise). Remember to turn them off when you leave the room. Fans cool people, not the air.
- Keep your kitchen cooler by grilling outside or using your microwave, crock pot or toaster oven—they use considerably less energy than a stove.
- Last but not least, check out Home Energy Suite® on [gvec.org](http://gvec.org). It's an online energy-efficiency toolbox that can help you calculate energy usage in your home, do a DIY energy audit, and more.

## Member Communication Survey Underway

GVEC wants to know what you'd like to know more about and how you'd like to receive this information from us. That's why we are calling a randomly selected group of members to participate in our communications survey in July. Thank you for taking the time to give us feedback!

## Notification of 2011 Patronage Capital Allocation

Recently the Board of Directors passed a resolution authorizing the allocation of 2011 margins to members who received electric service from GVEC during 2011. Members wishing to know more about the specific amount of the patronage capital allocation to their capital credit accounts may call 800.223.4832. A Customer Service Representative will be happy to assist you.

**All GVEC Offices Will Be Closed Wed., July 4, In Honor of Independence Day. Have a Safe 4th of July!**

## Who says cleaning is just for Spring?

Keeping your home's appliances and energy-consuming equipment clean not only will make your home feel more comfortable, but it will help you get more for your energy dollar. Here's a list of chores with steps you can take to save money:

- Dust lightbulbs and shades for better lighting, and install CFLs — you'll save about 66 percent on lighting costs per fixture.
- Clean or replace your AC system's filter for better airflow — save up to 5 percent on cooling costs.
- Dust curtains, and on sunny days, keep curtains on windows facing west and south closed — save 2 to 4 percent on annual cooling costs.
- Trim back foliage growing around the outdoor AC unit and have an HVAC professional tune-up your system — save up to 5 percent on cooling costs.
- Flush the sediment from the bottom of your water heater tank and set its temperature at 120 degrees — save 7 to 11 percent on water heating costs.
- Thoroughly dust computers, CD/DVD players, and TVs, and then unplug them when not in use — you'll save up to 30 percent on their overall electricity use.
- Wash and dry full loads of laundry in the evening and use cold water as often as possible. You'll save up to 4 percent on water-heating costs.
- Scrub the tub. Then install energy-saving showerheads, faucets or flow restrictors. You'll cut water heating costs 10 to 16 percent.

## Charge Up Your Cheerios®

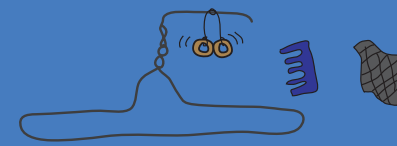
## Kids Korner

Hey kids! Did you know you could make your own electricity? Here's an experiment that shows you how—make sure you get help from an adult!

### Charged Up Cheerios

You'll need:

- 2 Cheerios
- Wire coat hanger
- Thread
- Plastic comb or pen
- Piece of wool or felt



Bend the coat hanger so it makes a stand. Bend the top part out flat as shown in the picture. Tie one cheerio to each end of the thread and wrap it around the end of the coat hanger top. Make sure the cheerios are even and are not touching the table. Now, rub the comb through the piece of wool and touch the comb to the cheerio and see what happens! Try rubbing other materials like cotton, silk, a balloon, or even combing your hair to make a charge.

For more energy-related experiments, a quiz game, coloring pages and more — check out the Fun Factory at Kids Korner on [gvec.org](http://gvec.org).

## Cool Savings on Room Air Conditioners

Rebates Available! Select Models on Sale!

CODE: GRRA712

Offer expires Aug. 31, 2012



**Friedrich Kühl**  
**Satin Silver**

Model:YS10M10

**BIG SAVINGS!**

**\$825**

Reg. \$1,039

(AFTER DISCOUNT & \$50 GVEC REBATE)

- 9,500 BTU HEAT PUMP
- 7-day programming
- Dual filtration
- Anti-intrusion protection

**All Kühl in-stock units on sale!**

### Compact Programmable with Remote

Model: CP06

**\$229**

Reg. \$299

(AFTER \$50 GVEC & \$20 FRIEDRICH REBATES)

- 6,000 BTU's
- Great for bedrooms
- ENERGY STAR® qualified



TACLB016038E

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Your kind of power.™

### Three Convenient Locations

Gonzales | La Vernia | Seguin

Serving Surrounding Areas — Open to the Public

800.223.GVEC (4832)

[gvechome.com](http://gvechome.com)

GVEC Home Services, Inc. is a subsidiary of GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.

## OUR FRIDAY NIGHT Lights



Some Linemen Play On The Field...  
**OUR TEAM Lights It Up.**

## RELIABILITY. SAFETY. SERVICE.

THAT'S THE GAME PLAN OF OUR GVEC LINEMEN.

Good luck to the GVEC Linemen and all teams at the 2012 Texas Lineman's Rodeo.

800.223.GVEC (4832)

GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.

[www.gvec.org](http://www.gvec.org)



# CO-OP CONVERSATION

DOES YOUR FAMILY KNOW THIS?

Third in a series of four: look for a Co-op Conversation each quarter.

## Passing on a Legacy

Imagine the anticipation of knowing your home would soon have electricity—just some of the new conveniences would include a lamp that worked off an invisible current rather than smoky kerosene and an iron that would get hot just by plugging it into the wall. To co-op members in the early days of GVEC, electricity must have seemed like a miraculous invention.

Today, electricity is a legacy that we can't imagine living without. But instead of looking for new ways to use electricity, as in the olden days, we need to focus now on using electricity wisely. And that's how today's parents and grandparents can play an important role in continuing to pass along the legacy of our electric pioneers: you can encourage the children in your life—whether they are toddlers or on their own—to embrace an energy-conscious lifestyle. It's not only a lesson in saving money for today, but one in conserving resources for tomorrow.

The best part is, being energy conscious is not only free, but as simple as one, two, three.

### 1. Start Small

Tell your children to turn off electricity not being used—lights, TVs and game consoles. Monitor thermostats: turn down the water heater to 120 degrees and keep your home's temperature a few degrees warmer in the summer and cooler in the winter. Since approximately 45 percent of the typical home electric bill can be attributed to heating and cooling, this simple change—especially if you aren't home during the day—can save up to 4 percent on your heating and cooling costs. If you remember last summer, ERCOT (Electric Reliability Council of Texas) suggested that by everyone raising their thermostats a few degrees during peak hours, it would help ensure electricity for all.

### 2. Get an Energy Check-Up

GVEC visits fifth- and sixth-grade classrooms to teach students how to be their own energy investigators. They learn about efficiency and how to do a DIY energy audit at home which results in a printout to take to parents with ideas

for saving energy. But you don't need to be a fifth grader to be energy smart. Just go to gvec.org and click the Home Energy Suite® icon to use GVEC's free, energy-efficiency tools, including a DIY audit. For members serious about making efficiency upgrades, GVEC experts offer a complimentary in-home energy audit.

### 3. Read the ENERGY STAR® Label

You probably have your own stories about bargain appliances that really weren't bargains. Give your children a lesson in reading ENERGY STAR labels. They provide the true cost of using an appliance, which includes the cost of electricity, too. This is handy knowledge because the cost of heating water and using other appliances accounts for about another 29 percent of the typical electric bill.

So, the next time you have a conversation with your children, spend a few moments on energy efficiency and conservation. You'll not only help them save money, but you'll be passing along a legacy, too.

## Doing Business Online is Easy and Secure on the GVEC Self-Service Portal

Are you hesitant about doing business online? Many people are—until they try it. And then wonder why they didn't do it sooner!

Once you sign up to use the GVEC Self-Service Portal, you can view your current bill or even past bills anytime online. You can also pay bills online, update your account information—even request text or email alerts to remind you when

your payment is due! And you can make sure you never have late payments or waste postage by paying your bill automatically by credit card or bank draft. You're in control when you sign up.

Check it out by visiting gvec.org and clicking any link in the Self-Service Portal box. Or call a Customer Service Representative for sign-up assistance at 800.223.GVEC (4832).



800.223.GVEC (4832) | GVEC.ORG

## Energy Efficiency 101

### A QUICK GUIDE TO CAULKING UP THE SAVINGS

BY BOB DICKELMAN

**Did you know invisible air leaks are the greatest sources of heating and cooling losses in your home?** Fortunately, you can seal a lot of leaks with less than \$100 worth of caulk. Generally, it's possible to seal openings up to one-quarter inch between window frames and siding or around door frames. For larger gaps, add a backing material before caulking, or use a spray foam sealant instead.

Most types of outdoor caulk are sold in tubes that fit a caulking gun. Some caulks come in aerosol cans; they're a good choice for filling gaps up to one-half-inch wide around pipes and wires. If your budget allows, spend a little more for a higher-quality caulk. Inexpensive caulks may last only a few years, while premium-priced caulks are rated for 20 years or more.

### Caulk Like a Pro

- Estimate half a tube per window/door.
- Apply caulk when the weather is dry, it's above 45 degrees, and humidity is low.
- Before applying new caulk, remove the old caulk or paint residue.
- Make sure your work area is dry.
- Hold the caulking gun at a 45-degree angle.
- Caulk in a straight, continuous stream: avoid stops and starts. Make sure caulk sticks to both sides of the crack.
- Start caulk at the bottom of an opening to avoid bubbles.
- Release the trigger on the caulking gun before pulling it away to prevent applying too much caulk.
- If the caulk shrinks, reapply it to completely seal the crack.
- If caulk oozes out of a crack, use a putty knife to push it back in.
- Use expanding foam for large gaps. Make sure it's the correct type of spray foam for the job.
- Use expanding foam for large cracks, too. It's sticky and attaches quickly; be prepared to pick up any messes fast.
- Seal gaps too wide for foam with foil-faced bubble wrap. For really large holes, cut rigid foam insulation to fit and glue into place with expanding foam before covering the area with the appropriate building material.

BOB DICKELMAN WRITES FOR THE NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.

### Energy Efficiency Rebates Available

In addition to caulking, adding insulation to your home is another energy efficiency upgrade that can give a lot of bang for your buck. Even better, GVEC offers rebates to help offset the initial cost of making efficiency upgrades. To see all rebate offers, visit gvec.org and click the Rebate Center icon.

**REBATE CENTER**



## Congrats Linemen!

Congratulations to the GVEC apprentice linemen who took honors at this year's Texas Lineman's Rodeo. James Hunter placed third in the Armor Rod and Tie competition, and Chad Conrey placed third in the Handline/Block Rollup competition. Another round of kudos goes to our very own grill masters who sauced the competition at the BBQ cook-off. The ROW team from Gonzales won first place overall for their ribs, chicken and brisket, and the Saucy Rita's team took second place in the brisket category. Last, but not least, GVEC was recognized for the Best Magazine Ad in the Rodeo Event Program.

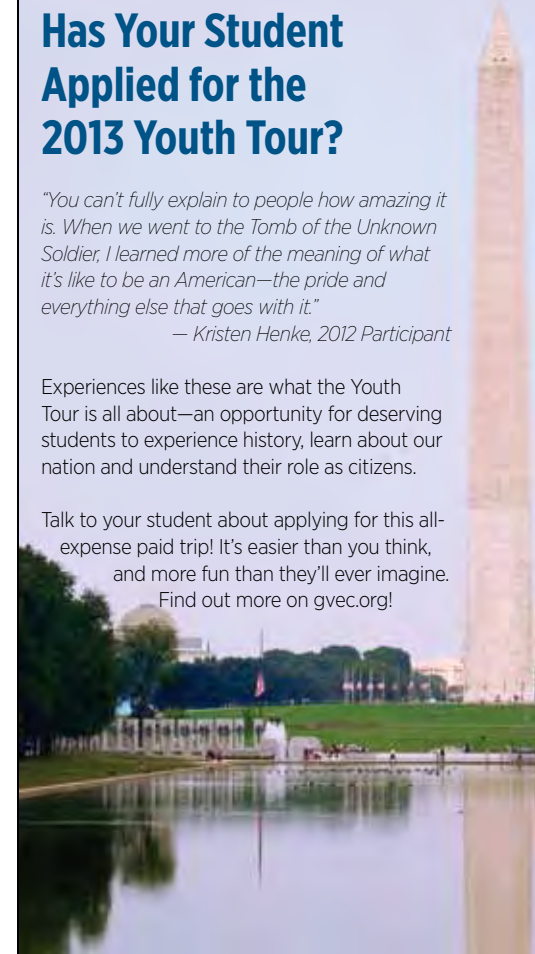
## Has Your Student Applied for the 2013 Youth Tour?

*"You can't fully explain to people how amazing it is. When we went to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, I learned more of the meaning of what it's like to be an American—the pride and everything else that goes with it."*

— Kristen Henke, 2012 Participant

Experiences like these are what the Youth Tour is all about—an opportunity for deserving students to experience history, learn about our nation and understand their role as citizens.

Talk to your student about applying for this all-expense paid trip! It's easier than you think, and more fun than they'll ever imagine. Find out more on gvec.org!





# Building a home? Design it for efficiency.

**BUILDING MATERIALS:** Newer materials are designed to tighten your home's "thermal envelope" by increasing its energy efficiency. (A tightly sealed thermal envelope shields indoor living space from the outdoors.) *Think about:*

- Using spray foam under your roofline instead of traditional insulation (batts, blown-in, etc.) to help keep your home cooler and help your AC run more efficiently if air ducting and other equipment are located in the attic.
- Incorporating materials like structural insulated panels (SIPs)—plywood-like sheets laminated to a foam core that serve as framing as well as insulation.

**WINDOWS:** Did you know the amount of glass in a home has a major impact on cooling and heating costs? The typical home loses more than 25 percent of its energy through windows. Even if windows have high-performance glass, they still don't match the insulation value of a wall. *Think about:*

- Limiting windows on the home's southwest side.
- Having smaller windows located high on walls so they're shaded by the roof overhang.

**ROOF:** Plan ahead—you may want to produce your own solar electricity someday. *Think about:*

- Orienting your roof to face a southern direction with a pitch of 20 to 35 degrees to maximize energy production with a solar photovoltaic system.
- Selecting materials and a color that reflect the sun's heat. Light-colored and reflective roof materials can help reduce cooling requirements by up to 15 percent.

**OVERHANGS & PORCHES:** These may be your home's best friend for providing shade. *Think about:*

- Sizing overhangs correctly to block the high summer sun, but let winter sun (and heat) enter your home.
- Adding a wide porch to shade walls and windows.
- Designing an outdoor cooking area to eliminate heat from cooking indoors. That way your AC won't have to work so hard to cool your home.

**LANDSCAPING:** Plant now! Shade helps reduce solar heat gain, so your AC won't work so hard. Tree shade can reduce surrounding air temperatures by up to 9 degrees; temperatures under trees can be up to 25 degrees cooler than a nearby black-top driveway or street. *Think about:*

- Planting trees and groundcover to shade the ground and pavement to reduce heat radiation and cool the air before it reaches your home.
- Shading a driveway or building a trellis with climbing vines to cool a patio.

**APPLIANCES:** They have come a long way in the past 10 years when it comes to efficiency. Look for the ENERGY STAR® label. Appliance placement is important, too. *Think about:*

- Placing water heaters close to the point of use. It will save energy and water.
- Placing your AC air handler in a conditioned space, rather than a hot, unconditioned, uninsulated attic. It's estimated this could save up to 25 percent on heating and cooling costs.

Building your dream home is all about having a design you love. It's also the perfect opportunity to make sure it's designed for energy efficiency, and the energy efficiency experts at GVEC can help you.

"Members sometimes forget GVEC is here for them and truly interested in helping them find ways to increase their home's energy efficiency without sacrificing comfort. For example, we offer a complimentary in-home energy audit because there are a lot of things you can do to retrofit a home. But no matter what you do, it will never be as effective as a home that is specifically designed and

built to be energy efficient," says David Burns, GVEC Member Services Manager.

"We can consult with you prior to the design stage and make suggestions that could help reduce your future energy bills."

For example, something as seemingly simple as a home's orientation (how it sits on a lot) can make a big difference and affect the home's energy efficiency and future electric bills. *For some other ideas to think about, review the information above.*

## We're Here to Help You

Remember, whether you're building new or have an existing home, GVEC has a variety of programs that include rebates, energy audits and online energy efficiency tools that can help you have a more energy-efficient home. We can even consult with you on the pros and cons of installing alternative energy such as solar or wind power. Just call a Member Services Advisor at 800.223.4832.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

## Boost the Efficiency of Your Manufactured Home

By Brian Sloboda

Older manufactured homes often have disproportionately higher energy bills than traditional wood-frame or modular homes. But you can take steps to help manage energy costs and increase comfort. Look for:

**Belly Board Problems**—In most manufactured homes, the belly board holds the insulation in place under the floor and serves as a vapor barrier. The belly board can be damaged by animals or deteriorate over time, allowing the floor insulation to become moisture laden or to simply fall out, exposing ductwork and dramatically increasing energy losses if repairs aren't made.

**Air Leakage/Infiltration**—Use weather stripping and insulation to fill gaps. Specific problems include deteriorated weather stripping; gaps in the "marriage wall" that joins multiple units; holes in the ends of ducts; and gaps around wall registers as well as behind washers and dryers.

**Crossover Ducts**—Sealing ducts that run under the sections making up your doublewide home will result in tremendous energy savings and increased comfort. Crossover ducts are often made of flexible tubing and are therefore prone to collapse, making it easy for animals to chew or claw into. Repairs are generally easy, using special sealant or metal tape. If you can afford the upgrade, consider replacing a flexible crossover duct with metal ductwork.

**Single-Glazed Windows and Uninsulated Doors**—Replacing old, single-glazed windows with high efficiency, double-pane windows or adding high efficiency storm windows will help make your home more comfortable. If you can, replace ill-fitting doors, and at the minimum, weather strip doors and windows.

Brian Sloboda is a program manager for the Cooperative Research Network.





# Thinking about going solar?

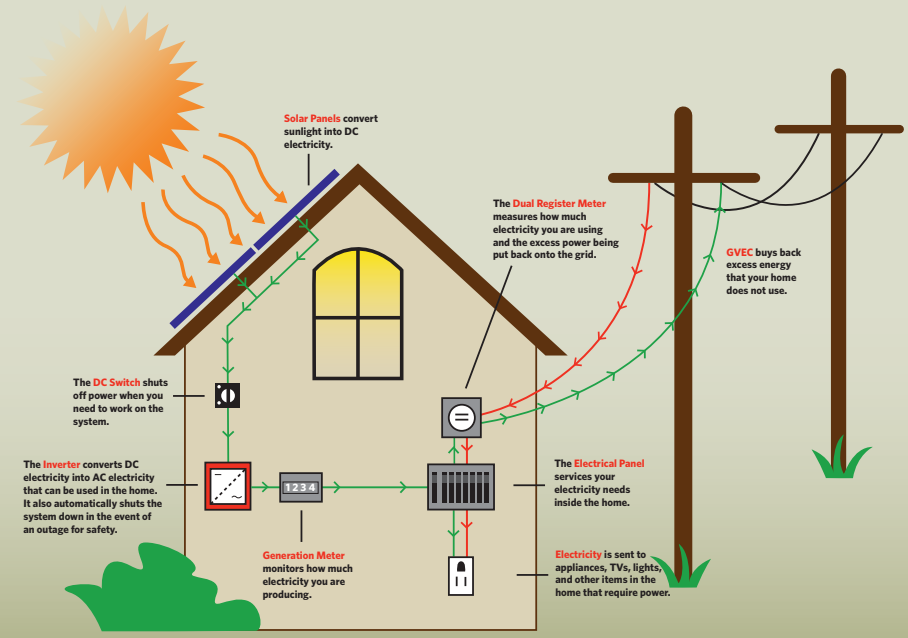
*Some GVEC members have “gone” solar because they want to do their part in conserving earth’s resources. For others it’s an investment in the future. But no matter the reason, there’s no doubt it’s a viable option in our sunny area. So, if you’ve ever wondered about installing a solar (PV) system or how GVEC can help you, read on.*

**How it works:** A solar (PV) system harnesses the sun’s energy by converting solar energy into electricity using solar panels and inverters. While most systems won’t power an entire home, they can supplement your energy usage and reduce your utility bill. Plus, as stated in the Cooperative’s Renewable Generating Tariff, the electricity your home doesn’t use can be sold back to GVEC. An Interconnection Agreement is required, which sets the terms and conditions for properly and safely connecting a solar PV system to the grid.

Connecting to the grid also means you can draw power from GVEC when your solar PV system is producing less

energy than your home demands. Of course, the bigger the system, the more electricity you can generate. Most homeowners install a 4 kW system which can produce approximately 500 kWh (kilowatt hours) per month. That’s about a third of the 1,500 kWh/month consumed by the typical home in the GVEC service area.

But even with a PV system, you won’t necessarily have power if there’s a power outage. Your solar system will automatically shut down to prevent backfeeding into de-energized utility lines to keep our linemen safe while they restore power.



To get the most from your system, here are some other considerations:

**Roof direction** – South facing is best for maximum production. However, pole-mounted systems work well when rooftops are shaded or simply not an option. Another option is a ground-mounted system if you have the space.

**Shade** – You’ll get the most production from your system when the solar panels are directly exposed to sunlight. Even a small amount of shade can drastically reduce energy production.

**Energy efficiency** – The more energy efficient your home is, the more effective a solar PV system will be in reducing your electric bill. Investing in energy efficient upgrades first can actually lower the size and cost of the solar PV system you choose.

**Incentives** – Certain requirements must be met before you can qualify for any available GVEC energy efficiency rebates and federal tax incentives. Be sure to check with GVEC’s Renewable Energy Advisor before selecting a system.

**How GVEC can help:** Installing a solar PV system requires experienced and knowledgeable professionals, which is why GVEC has a dedicated Renewable expert to consult with you. For example, we can help you understand the technical requirements for connecting to the electric grid and determine if this would be a good investment. Once you have a design and quote, we can review the information with you.

GVEC has long been committed to helping members reduce their energy needs, and serving as your Renewable expert is just another example. For more information about PV systems as well as wind turbines, call GVEC Home at 800.223.GVEC (4832).

## Hey Kids! Here’s an Earth Day Project: Grassy Googly Guys



### YOU’LL NEED:

- 2 tablespoons of grass seed
- The “foot” section from a nylon stocking
- 1 cup potting soil
- 1 plastic yogurt container
- Water
- 2 googly eyes
- Permanent marker
- Double-sided tape
- Card stock, craft foam, etc., for clothing

**Kids Korner**

hanging. Fill a yogurt container halfway with water and place the stocking head on top with the nylon tail in the water to serve as a wick. Attach googly eyes to the head and draw on a mouth with a permanent marker. Decorate the yogurt container by taping on clothing made from paper or other materials.

Place on a sunny window sill or outside. Be sure to check the water level in the yogurt container every day, keeping it at least half full.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Spoon the grass seed into the stocking foot and then add the potting soil on top of the seed. Tie a knot in the stocking to form the head, leaving the extra fabric

For more kid-size fun, go to **Kids Korner at [www.gvec.org](http://www.gvec.org)**. Source: [www.familyfun.com](http://www.familyfun.com)

## From Lighting to Cooking to E-viting.

INTERNET | ELECTRIC | HOME

You may not always notice us, but we’re there. The ones you can rely on to power your home. To heat up dinner to your taste. To stay in touch with the world outside our community. For over 74 years, we’ve enjoyed being a part of your community. But more importantly, we’re proud to play a part in your life.

If you’re not familiar with everything GVEC has to offer, please visit **[gvec.org](http://gvec.org)** or call us at **800.223.GVEC**.

### Three times the expertise...

**gvec.net**  
Your kind of power.

**High-Speed Internet from a Local Company You Can Trust**

- + High-Speed Internet
- + Email Spam & Virus Filtering
- + Web Hosting
- + Local Service & Support

**gvec**  
Your kind of power.

**Your Partner for Reliable and Affordable Electric Service**

- + Energy-Efficient Rebates
- + Energy-Saving Tools
- + Community Grants
- + Safety Education
- + Youth Programs

**gvec home**  
Your kind of power.

**Appliance Shopping and Service for Your Kind of Lifestyle**

- + Home Appliance Shopping
- + Air Conditioning/Heating Services
- + Installation, Repair & Service
- + Energy Efficient Home Upgrades
- + Renewable Alternatives



Exhibit H



# **gvechome**

Your kind of power.®

GVEC Home Services, Inc. is a subsidiary of **GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.**

# Appliance Shopping for Everyone!

**DID YOU KNOW OUR GVEC HOME® STORES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC?**

Shopping at GVEC Home gives you the style and selection you want in today's appliances. Plus, our local energy-saving experts are always on hand to help you select the product and services for your kind of lifestyle and budget.

## **At GVEC Home, you'll find:**

- + Energy Efficient Brand Name Appliances
- + Countertop Appliances, Cookware, Bakeware and Cutlery
- + Delivery, Installation, Repair and Service
- + Air Conditioning/Heating (HVAC) Services

*And the best part is, anyone can shop GVEC Home!*

Call **800.223.GVEC**, visit **[gvechome.com](http://gvechome.com)** or shop one of our three locations: **Gonzales, La Vernia, and Seguin.**

**In-Stock Inventory**

**Financing Options Available**

**GVEC Members:  
Get Instant  
Rebate Savings\***

**Come See Us at the Taste of Home Cooking School in Seguin on March 20 at the Coliseum!**

\* Where Applicable

# GVEC Home® Has a Shopping Website!

GVEC Home is excited to introduce its new shopping website. The site showcases the vast selection of home appliances, air conditioning/heating services, maintenance programs, and more — all available through GVEC Home. We invite you to take a look: [gvechome.com](http://gvechome.com)!

**1 POPULAR TOPICS:** Learn about the full range of GVEC Home services including AC/Heating sales and maintenance plans, water heaters, and renewable alternatives in wind and solar.

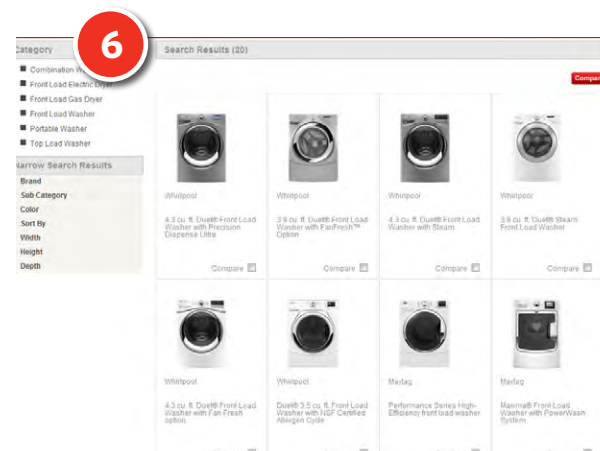
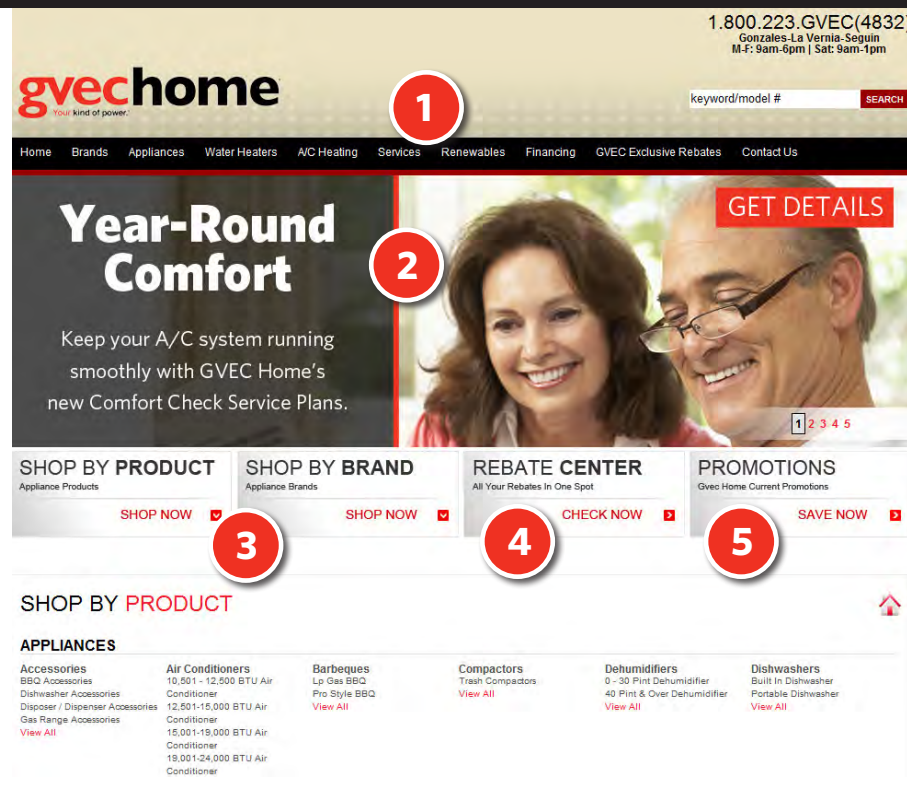
**2 ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Rotating images will keep you up-to-date on current in-store and online specials, as well as on news or other GVEC Home announcements.

**3 SHOP BY PRODUCT/BRAND:** Conveniently search for any appliance sold through GVEC Home by brand or by product type.

**4 REBATE CENTER:** Find money saving opportunities through manufacturers' rebates or click the "GVEC Exclusive Rebates" link in the top navigation menu for member rebates.

**5 PROMOTIONS:** Visit the Promotions section often to take advantage of product discounts or service savings throughout the month.

**6 COMPARE:** Select the appliance category you want to review and then choose up to four products at once to compare specifications and features.



## Get Started!

From refrigerators, ranges, washers and dryers to renewables and maintenance programs, you'll find it on

[gvechome.com](http://gvechome.com)

## 4 Tips for Beating High Summer Electric Bills

Don't let warmer weather turn into the summertime blues when your monthly electric bill arrives! Here are some money-smart tips to reduce energy use:

**1 Adjust the thermostat.** For each degree raised, save up to 4 percent on the cost of cooling your home. This adds up since heating and cooling accounts for nearly 45 percent of the typical electric bill. The optimum recommended temperature is 78 to 80 degrees.

**2 Install a programmable thermostat.** It lets you automatically regulate the temperature. So, while you're away during the day, it will raise the temperature a few degrees and lower it again just before you come home.

**3 Be a "fan-atic."** While fans don't replace air conditioners or heat pumps, they move air to help you feel more comfortable. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

**4 Commit to regular maintenance.** Start with changing your air filters regularly (see our "how-to" story). It's also a good idea to enlist the services of an HVAC professional to perform system tune-ups to ensure your system runs at peak efficiency. Tune-ups can also help extend equipment life by uncovering potential problems before they become costly repairs.

GVEC Home can help you keep your home comfortable. Call 800.223.4832. Our maintenance plan is backed by GVEC professionals and you can conveniently pay for the plan over 12 months by adding payments to your GVEC electric bill.

For more ideas on lowering your energy bill, check out the Home Energy Suite® on [gvec.org](http://gvec.org) for tips, energy calculators, a DIY home energy audit and more.

### Save Money and Energy: Change Your Air Filter Often!

A dirty filter will lead to dust and dirt buildup, which could damage your system and lead to costly repairs. It will also cause your system to waste energy by having to work harder to move air throughout your home. Energystar.gov recommends checking your filter every month; change it if it's dirty or at least every three months. When buying a new filter, you don't need the most expensive one, but you should look for a filter that is *loosely* pleated.

Before changing your filter, experts recommend turning your system off. Make sure the arrow on the filter — indicating the direction of the airflow — is pointing toward the blower motor. Once it's replaced, turn your system on.

Source: Energystar.gov

SAT., MAY 26 & MON., MAY 28 ONLY!

## Tax-Free Weekend

### Hundreds of Appliances In Stock!

Buy select ENERGY STAR® appliances during Memorial Day weekend — pay no taxes, get rebates!

### May is Maytag® Month!

Receive up to a **\$700** MasterCard® Prepaid Card by mail with purchase of select Maytag brand appliances.

**Financing Available** on Any Brand Appliance Purchase

Pay no interest with payments if paid in full within 24 months. Financing Available on Qualifying Appliance Purchase (\$499 & Up). Excludes taxes, delivery and installation.



Call **800.223.GVEC** or shop one of our three locations: **Gonzales, La Vernia, and Seguin.**

**Memorial Day Hours: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

(Closed Sunday, May 27)  
[homeservices@gvec.org](mailto:homeservices@gvec.org)

**Open to the Public**



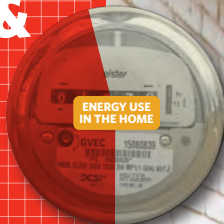


# Heating & Cooling

ACCOUNTS FOR

# 46%

OF YOUR  
ENERGY BILL



**SAVE ENERGY & MONEY WITH REGULAR MAINTENANCE**

## COMFORT CHECK

*AC/Heating Service Plan*

# \$60 OFF

Comfort Check  
(Reg. \$150)

Texas A/C Contractor License TACLB016098E

Must book an  
appointment by  
**Oct. 31, 2012!**

**800.223.4832**

[gvechome.com](http://gvechome.com)

Cannot be combined with any other  
GVEC Home offer. CODE: ST1060CC

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Your kind of power.

**GONZALES | LA VERNIA | SEGUIN**  
*Serving Surrounding Areas | Open to the Public*

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Your kind of power.<sup>®</sup>

**economics**

**Appliances + AC Services = Energy Savings**



**Open to the Public**

**[gvechome.com](http://gvechome.com)**



# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Beat the Heat!  
Don't Miss Our  
Cool AC Savings!

LIMITED TIME

LIMITED-TIME COUPON

\$500 OFF

A FULL A/C SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

*(GVEC Rebates On Qualifying Units Apply)*

Replacement must include the air handler and condenser. For GVEC members only. Offer valid for system replacements scheduled and performed by September 1, 2012. Not applicable for parts or partial replacements. May not be combined with any other GVEC Home® offer.



Amana



PROMO CODE:  
HVACGRDC512

**gvec**home  
Your kind of power.®

Texas A/C Contractor License TACLB016098E

## Exhibit I

# So·lar Sim·plic·i·ty



**At GVEC Home, solar simplicity means “good deal,”  
“easy,” and “great product.”**

Our solar panel energy systems are more affordable than you think, easy to customize, and are long-lasting. With energy efficiency rebates, government tax credits, and manufacturer rebates, you can save up to half the upfront costs. Plus, it's easy to select a system that fits your needs and is tough enough to last year after year. Find out how you can harness the South Texas sun to help power your home with a solar photovoltaic system from GVEC Home.

**Just call the energy experts at GVEC Home—we'll show you how simple solar really is.**



**gvec**home<sup>®</sup>  
Your kind of power.™

**800.223.GVEC | gvechome.com**

GVEC Home is a subsidiary of **GuadalupeValleyElectricCooperative, Inc.**



# C NVERSATION

DOES YOUR FAMILY KNOW THIS?

*Last in a series of four of  
the Co-op Conversation*

## “I didn’t know that!”

Recent conversations with GVEC members of different ages and from all walks of life revealed something we didn’t know: while many of these members were aware they received their electric service from a cooperative, they didn’t really know what a cooperative was and why it made a difference. They also didn’t know about the many benefits available to them.

So it’s no surprise younger members or those new to the area didn’t know the history of the electric cooperative movement. Nor did they realize the active role their cooperative plays in the community—a partnership that’s only deepened over time. With electricity at the core, the Cooperative has grown into much more to meet the needs of our members.

**Did you know?** For example, as a not-for-profit, member-owned corporation, GVEC customers are its members, and GVEC is run by the members it serves. So the Cooperative is not only member- and customer service-centered, it’s local through and through. Any profits (margins) earned are reinvested in the electric system, returned to members as capital credits at the discretion of the Board of Directors, and used to help support the communities GVEC serves.

**Did you know?** GVEC supports the community in many ways including youth initiatives such as the scholarship

program for members’ children who want to continue their education after high school. GVEC also sponsors students each year so they can attend the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. If selected, students spend a week learning about our country’s history as they tour the nation’s capital, meet their legislators, and learn more about cooperatives. (Applications are being accepted through January 15 for the 2013 Youth Tour and through March 1 for the GVEC Scholarship Program.)

**Did you know?** At the younger end of the spectrum are GVEC’s safety and efficiency programs that are presented in area schools. For elementary school students, the larger-than-life character, Louie the Lightning Bug, talks about safety and sponsors a coloring contest. Middle school students see live electrical safety demonstrations and receive life lessons in energy efficiency.

**Did you know?** For those of all ages, GVEC offers a variety of energy efficiency programs to help members save money while still enjoying all the conveniences of electricity. Examples include rebates for energy efficiency home improvements and appliances, and a complimentary in-home energy audit. The Cooperative even offers members the opportunity to qualify for a short-term loan program for

improvements such as replacing an older air conditioning/heating system with a new efficient one.

**Did you know?** If you’re interested in alternative energy and installing a solar photovoltaic electric system or wind turbine, just turn to your cooperative. GVEC’s efficiency experts are schooled in both and can provide information and guidance.

**Did you know?** Last, but not least, are GVEC subsidiaries, GVEC.net® and GVEC Home® that offer a number of member services and products. As GVEC rounds the corner to its 75th anniversary, you’ll hear more about why GVEC Home was created and how it grew from our rural members’ need to have appliance repairmen willing to travel to their farms. The same goes for GVEC.net which got its start by taking advantage of the electric infrastructure to provide satellite TV and later, the Internet, to areas where those services were unavailable.

**Now you know.** So, the next time you switch on the lights, remember, GVEC is more than just electricity. It’s your electric cooperative dedicated to serving its member-owners.



## So · lar Sim · plic · i · ty

### At GVEC Home, solar simplicity means “good deal.”

A solar photovoltaic (PV) electric system is more affordable than you think. There’s no better time than now to buy—take advantage of our energy efficiency rebate for GVEC members, government tax credits for renewable energy and manufacturer rebates where applicable. Combined, you can save up to half the upfront cost!

Find out how you can harness the South Texas sun to help power your home with solar panels from GVEC Home. Just call the energy experts at GVEC Home—we’ll show you how simple solar really is.



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